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MYSORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Monday, 10th March 1958.

The House met in the Council Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, at Fifteen Minutes past Two of the Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SRI P. SITHARAMIAH, B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Beggars in Bangalore City.

*Q.—13. Dr. N. A. AIENGAR (Nominated).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they have made a statistics of the beggar population in Bangalore ;

(*b*) the total number that the local home can accommodate ;

(*c*) whether they are aware that the beggars get out of the home very easily;

(*d*) whether they will consider bringing legislation making beggary punishable by law ?

*A.—Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA (Minister for Labour and Legal Affairs).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 200 persons.

(*c*) No. They are however released on parole by the officer in charge or by the Magistrate on proper surety.

(*d*) It is already punishable under the law.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—By way of supplementary to (*a*): What is the total number of beggars in Bangalore?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—In Bangalore it was 795 in 1935. When reckoned again in 1941 it was 5,749.

Sri M. L. SREEKANTIAH.—How many of them were educated and how many were uneducated?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—I have no information on that point.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—Is Government aware that quite a large number of them are able-bodied beggars ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—There are some like that. Attempts are being made to put them to some useful occupation.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—In its survey has Government been able to find out the number of people who cannot earn and the number of people who have got some backing ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It is a question of unemployment and attempts are being made to put them to some useful occupation.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—How many of them belong to the State of Mysore?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—I have no information with me at present. If necessary, I will call for it.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—Is Government aware that many of them manage to get out even before they are brought to the colony after they are arrested ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—I am not aware of any particular instance.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—Who is the authority to enforce the law ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—There is a special department which is on the perpetual move to find out if there are any beggars infringing the law and they are arrested and produced before a Magistrate.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—Will Government consider the desirability of rehabilitating the disabled persons and making them earn their own livelihood?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—Government is already doing that. If the Hon'ble member kindly pays a visit to the Beggar Homes he will find out what efforts are being made in that direction.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗೊರೂರು ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್.—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯ ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಶೋಧಿಸಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಈ ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ದಿನದಿನಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೇನೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯಲು ಸರಕಾರದವರು ಏನು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—Beggary has been there all these years. The attempt of the present Government is to eradicate it. That being a big problem it is not so easy to solve it so soon.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗೊರೂರು ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್.—ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವರ್ಷ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆಯೋ ಅಥವಾ ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆಯೋ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It is at present thought to be on the decrease.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ರಂಗಪ್ಪ.—ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ಏನು ನಿರೋಧಿಸತಕ್ಕ ಕಾನೂನನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಈ ಎರಡು ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆಯೋ ಅಥವಾ ಇದನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೂ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತೀರೋ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It is not extended to the villages as yet.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ರಂಗಪ್ಪ.—ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ಈ ಶಾಸನವನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೇ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It will entail huge financial commitments which it may not be possible to carry out at the moment.

Sri M. P. L. SASTRY.—Is there any possibility of increasing the number of Beggar Homes in Bangalore?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—The matter is under consideration. The present number of Beggar Homes is 160 and it is likely to go up to 200 immediately.

Sri M. P. L. SASTRY.—What steps have Government taken to make these people take up some other profession than beggary?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—As I have already said, an attempt is being made to rehabilitate them and give them some other useful profession. One such step is to make them do some manual labour such as gardening, stitching, or some other associate work.

Sri M. P. L. SASTRY.—May I know the machinery that is employed by Government for collecting the statistics in regard to the number of beggars in Bangalore City?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—The machinery is the usual machinery of Government officers. These are the figures collected by them in 1941. If the Hon'ble member wants further detailed information, I will call for it and try to give detailed information.

Sri M. P. L. SASTRY.—Has it come to the notice of Government that entire families have taken to this profession on account of their not being able to get suitable employment?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It would not be wise or proper to say that entire families have taken to beggary bacause they could not find any employment for themselves. An attempt is being made to find out employment for those who are not employed and for that purpose Employment Exchanges have been set up. The tempo of work in that direction is increasing.

Sri M P. L. SASTRY.—Is Government aware that even educated people have taken to beggary during the last five years in Bangalore City?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—I will not say that there are not stray individuals like that, but certainly I will not be able to concede that it has grown to such an extent which is worth mentioning.

Sri M. P. L. SASTRY.—Has Government considered the desirability of employing a more perfect machinery for collecting statistics both in regard to educated beggars and uneducated ones?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It will see the perpetual attempt of Government to effect improvements in the machinery, but in this case how to achieve the desired result is the problem because we are lacking in finance needed for the purpose.

Dr. N. A. AIENGAR.—Is Government aware that beggary seems to be a much more profitable profession than other professions?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—It is rather a vague question. I have heard of a story that a certain cinema actor took to begging and found it more profitable and, therefore he would not revert to his profession.